

5th District Legislative Update

Winter 2004

**Representative
Glenn Anderson**



**Representative
Jay Rodne**



Dear friends and neighbors,

We are honored to serve as part of your new 5th District legislative team. We are especially pleased to introduce Jay Rodne, who recently joined Glenn Anderson as your representatives from the 5th District. Jay replaces Cheryl Pflug who was appointed to fill the Senate seat vacated by gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi.

The 2004 session began January 12. While we are bolstered by Boeing's decisions to assemble its new 7E7 Dreamliner here in Washington, we continue to face long-term budget deficits that dominates legislation in Olympia. Over the last four years, our state has experienced \$4 billion in spending deficits, with an additional \$2 billion shortfall projected in the next four years. We feel it's important to maintain fiscal discipline and "stay the course" on the balanced-budget policies championed by former Sen. Rossi last year.

New economic opportunities hold the key to improving the quality of life in our state, including our desire for better schools, a healthy environment and affordable health care coverage.

This newsletter addresses these important issues, and also provides results from a recent district survey conducted by Rep. Anderson. We thought you'd like to know the opinions you and your neighbors have expressed to us in response to that questionnaire.

Thank you to those who responded to the questionnaire. Your opinions matter to us. If you have additional thoughts or questions about these issues, always feel free to contact us. Your opinions and priorities make a difference. It is your government.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature of Glenn Anderson in black ink.

Glenn Anderson
State Representative

A handwritten signature of Jay Rodne in black ink.

Jay Rodne
State Representative

**Join us for
a town hall
meeting!**

Please join us for one of the following town hall meetings on Saturday, Feb. 21. We look forward to seeing you and answering your questions about legislative issues.

Saturday, Feb. 21

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Maple Valley Library
21844 SE 248th St.

11 a.m. to noon

Issaquah Highlands Fire Station
1280 NE Park Dr.

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Snoqualmie Police Station
34825 SE Douglas St.

Improving our state's competitiveness

Our state's economic recovery continues to lag behind the rest of the country. We must continue reforms to our state's tax and regulatory policies to make this a good place for employers to expand and create new jobs.

Here's what you have to say about our economy

Our state's continuing economic recession has had its impact on the hard working families of our district. A majority, 54 percent of you, said our anxious economic times had negatively affected your family incomes



Rep. Anderson now serves on the House Appropriations Committee and will work as one of the lead budget negotiators for House Republicans.

and 43 percent felt that their current employment was possibly at continuing risk.

It is clear that you see the need to invest in opportunities to create jobs. A total of 62 percent said the state should renew the high tech research & development tax credits to encourage employers and 81 percent said small businesses should be allowed a tax credit for the cost of complying with government regulations. Small businesses account for 70 percent of the jobs in our state and the costs of excessive government regulation limit the ability of those businesses to expand and hire new employees.

However, there is a limit since 55 percent of you opposed offering further tax and regulatory incentives to retain the Boeing Company and the proposed 7E7 facility.

The opinion of an overwhelming majority is that dramatic increases in health care costs to both families and businesses due to litigation need to be controlled, with 85 percent supporting a cap on jury awards for medical malpractice lawsuits.

Fiscal responsibility

We fought hard for the balanced budget drafted by former Sen. Dino Rossi last session and with bipartisan support successfully closed a \$2.7 billion budget deficit without general fund tax increases. To retreat from this approach would risk a broad tax increase and deep cuts in essential services for people who truly need government assistance.

Here's what you have to say about the state budget

State budget deficits and the need to prioritize spending generated the most hand-written responses to the survey.

It is clear that when times are tough for families, they should be tough for government too. When given the choice between raising taxes and either limiting or cutting spending versus no new taxes and cutting spending to eliminate state budget deficits:

- 70 percent said no new taxes and cut spending.
- 85 percent said the state auditor should be given authority to conduct performance audits and hold state agencies responsible for the money they spend and the results they achieve.

The top four priorities for the spending of state revenues in order were:

- 1) Education
- 2) Transportation
- 3) Job Creation
- 4) Health Care

5th District Legislative Update

Education – Our paramount duty

We will continue to support efforts to achieve excellence in our schools and help students transition successfully to a higher education system that prepares them for high-demand, high-paying fields.

What you have to say about education

It was clear that our challenging economic times have had a significant impact on how we address our education priorities as well.

In the debate on whether the state or local communities should take the lead on funding our schools:

- 62 percent believe that K-12 education should be equally funded statewide and supported by the state.
- 38 percent believed local school districts should have the unrestricted ability to raise local funds to support schools.

On the issue of teacher pay the outcome was a split decision with 51 percent believing that current pay is just about right and 49 percent believing teachers should be paid more.

On judging if the state's WASL testing standards are adequate to encourage student achievement:

- 39 percent don't know
- 29 percent believe they're just right
- 19 percent believe they aren't strong enough
- 13 percent believe they are too strong.

The message on how to fund our schools was very clear:

- 69 percent of you believe that the current 60 percent "supermajority" vote requirement for school districts to pass property tax levies should not be reduced to a "simple majority" of 50% +1 vote.

This question also generated a very significant number of hand written notes about protecting property tax payers.

Additionally, when asked which two options would you be willing to accept to increase funding for K-12 and higher education, by a 3-to-1 margin you said "grow the state's economy, don't raise taxes and prioritize spending" as opposed to "raising either state or local taxes or raising both".

Last, but not least, 85 percent of you believe that teacher strikes should either be illegal or school collective bargaining should be open to parents, taxpayers and the public so we could all have a better understanding of the issues related to bargaining positions between school districts and the teacher's union.



We want to hear from you!

We are honored to be serving as your 5th District legislative team.

Because of election-year restrictions, we are limited in the amount of unsolicited information we are allowed to send you in the coming months. In addition to this newsletter, we will be sending you one more update at the end of the 2004 session.

We can, however, answer questions or respond to any requests you may have at any time. It's important you know we are here to serve you and help you in your dealings with state government. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance.

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Toll-free Legislative Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

TTY (for hearing impaired):

1-800-635-9993

5th District Legislative Update

Meet your newest representative

My wife Heidi and I, along with our two children, live in Snoqualmie.



I served on the Snoqualmie City Council there prior to joining the Legislature.

I graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law and I'm currently in private practice. I'm also currently a Major in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and recently returned from service in Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

My biggest priorities in the Legislature are moving Washington's economy and classrooms forward. I believe there is a lot we can do to **bring jobs and prosperity to our state's working families and enhance our education system. I'm also very concerned about transportation issues, especially funding for district projects.**

I look forward to serving our community in the Legislature.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Rodne".

Rep. Jay Rodne takes his oath of office administered by Washington State Supreme Court Justice Susan Owens.



Printed on recycled paper

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Rep. Glenn Anderson

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